

For Immediate Release:

July 18, 2017

For More Information Contact:

Beth Kaufman

Jesse White Reminds Drivers of Expedited Services for Titles, Registration, Licenses and IDs for Flood Victims

Research and report damaged vehicles

Secretary of State Jesse White announced that flood victims in Lake, Kane, McHenry and Cook counties will be offered the following services over the next 30 days at no charge: duplicate certificate of title-vehicle registration, driver's license and state ID card.

White initiated a law effective in July 2012 that gives his office authority to waive such fees for residents who have been impacted by natural disasters and live in counties that have been declared disaster areas by the governor.

In addition, White said his office will be offering priority service on titles, duplicate titles and corrected titles. The fees for these services will also be waived. Motorists may apply in person at their nearest Driver Services facility.

"I am pleased to offer duplicate state IDs and driver's licenses as well as priority title service as a way to help those who have had their documents and vehicles impacted by flooding," said White. "Frequently, in submitting an automobile claim to an insurance company, the owner of the vehicle must be able to present the proper title. Priority title service will offer residents who need their title immediately a way to obtain it in an easy, fast and convenient manner."

White is also warning consumers who are looking to purchase used vehicles to beware of flood damage due to recent flooding in Lake, Kane, McHenry and Cook counties. In an effort to protect Illinois consumers, White is urging customers in these areas to check for water damage when buying a car.

White urges consumers to research a vehicle before making a purchase. Consumers should consider consulting companies that provide additional information about the history of vehicles and having a mechanic inspect a vehicle prior to making a purchase.

Furthermore, White is reminding residents and car dealerships in Lake, Kane, McHenry and Cook counties that any vehicle which has been submerged in water, entering the passenger or trunk area, should have the title designated as a "flood vehicle." This change in vehicle status should be done as soon as possible so the owner or dealer is in compliance with the Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC). Vehicles with damage exceeding 33 percent of the fair market value of the vehicle prior to the flood shall be issued a salvage certificate with the "flood designation." Those who fail to designate "flood" on an application for title are in violation of the IVC and may result in a fine of up to \$5,000.

For additional information on buying a used vehicle, consult the Buying a Used Vehicle brochure at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/sos_dop141.pdf.

For additional information on applying for a duplicate driver's license, state ID card, or vehicle registration, motorists may contact the Secretary of State's general hotline number at 800-252-8980. Motorists with questions about the priority title service may call 217-524-7889.